



ed CHOICE

TEENS, HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS, AND THEIR
PANDEMIC SCHOOLING PERSPECTIVES

A National Polling Report

MAY 2022

KEY FINDINGS

- 1. High school parents and teens express very different outlooks about the future.** Parents are more likely to feel positive about their child's future, while teens are more likely to feel neutral, potentially indicating either uncertainty or indifference. High school parents are more likely to believe that their child is ready for life after high school than teens feel they are – especially those planning on attending college.
- 2. About half of teens still plan on attending college after high school, despite the pandemic's influence.** However, many teens stated they are a little less inclined to do so now compared to their pre-pandemic plans. One out of five high school parents said their child's post-high school plans have changed during the pandemic.
- 3. High school parents generally believe their wellness has stayed about the same during the pandemic, which differ from teens' responses.** Teens are more likely than high school parents to believe relationships with their immediate family and their family's financial situation have gotten better. Teens are relatively more negative than parents about motivation and personal mental health. Teens are feeling much better now about their own health and their family's health.
- 4. Teens are split on their preferences between full-time regular schooling and hybrid schooling.** More than half say they would like to learn at home at least one day per week. One out of 10 say they do not want to attend school in person – similar to the level observed in September 2021.
- 5. High school parents and teens seem to have different observations about how prevalent social/political topics are shared at school.** Teens are more likely than high school parents to observe teachers at school sharing opinions on different social/political issues. Roughly half or more of teens say classmates have recently shared opinions on masking, LGBTQ issues, politics, vaccines, race, or religion. High school parents are much more likely to have received recent district or school communications about masking and vaccinations than other social issues.
- 6. Teens view improving education as one of the most important public policy issues right now.** A similar share of high school parents signal the same. However, strengthening the economy is clearly highest priority for parents.

Methodology: These polls were conducted between March 12–27, 2022 among a national sample of 1,000 Teens and between March 12–24, 2022 among a national sample of 1,030 High School Parents. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Teens based on gender, age, race, and region and a target sample of High School Parents based on gender, age, race, and education. Results from the full survey have a measure of precision of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points for Teens and 4.3 for High School Parents.

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SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



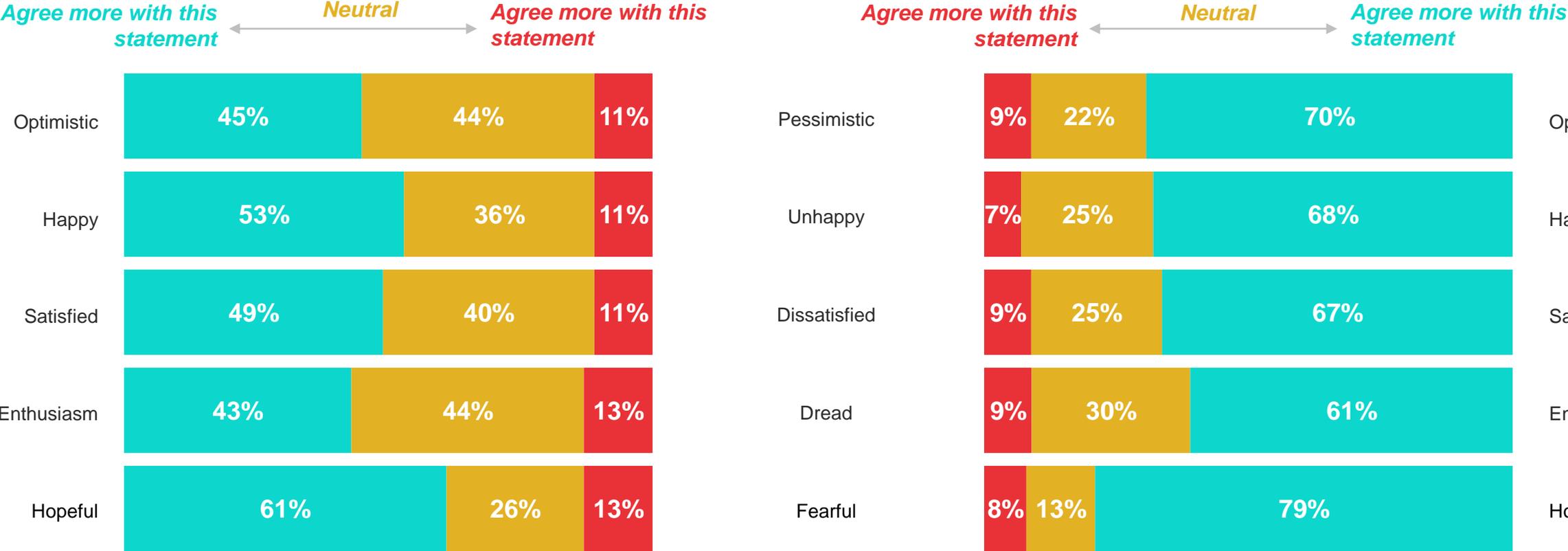
Teens and high school parents express very different feelings about the future. Parents are more likely to feel positive about their child’s future, while teens are often much less likely to feel that way. Teens are more neutral.

When thinking about the future, please select which of these words best describes how you feel right now?

When thinking about your child's future, please select which of two words that best describes how you feel right now?

Teens

High School Parents

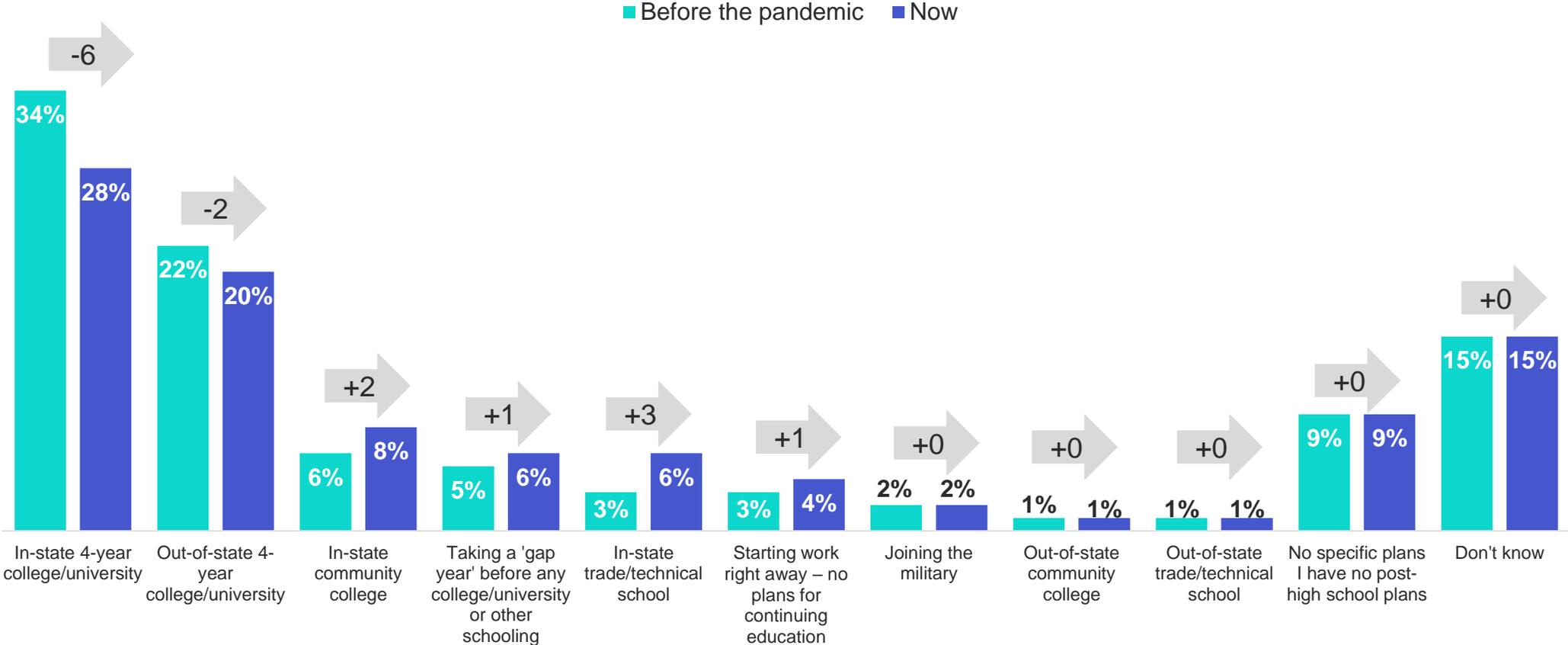


Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

Despite the pandemic's influence, about half of teens still plan on attending college after high school. However, fewer teens are inclined to do so now (-8 points) than they were before the pandemic.

Thinking about your plans following high school, please select what you were planning to do before the pandemic... And what are your plans following high school now?

Teens



Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

Teens who have changed their post-high school plans say key reasons are the impact of the pandemic, personal growth, and their personal situations.

Teens

Why have your post-high school plans changed?

IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

“Life hit me hard during the pandemic and I want to take a break to enjoy my life.”

“There are too many pandemic concerned requirements when going to a 4-year school.”

“A lot has to do with the pandemic as well as personal problems.”

LEARNED MORE ABOUT MYSELF/OTHER PATHS

“Learned more about options and got a full-ride scholarship to an out-of-state community college.”

“I learned more about myself and what I want to do.”

“I know what I want now and I didn't know before the pandemic since I was younger.”

PERSONAL SITUATION HAS CHANGED

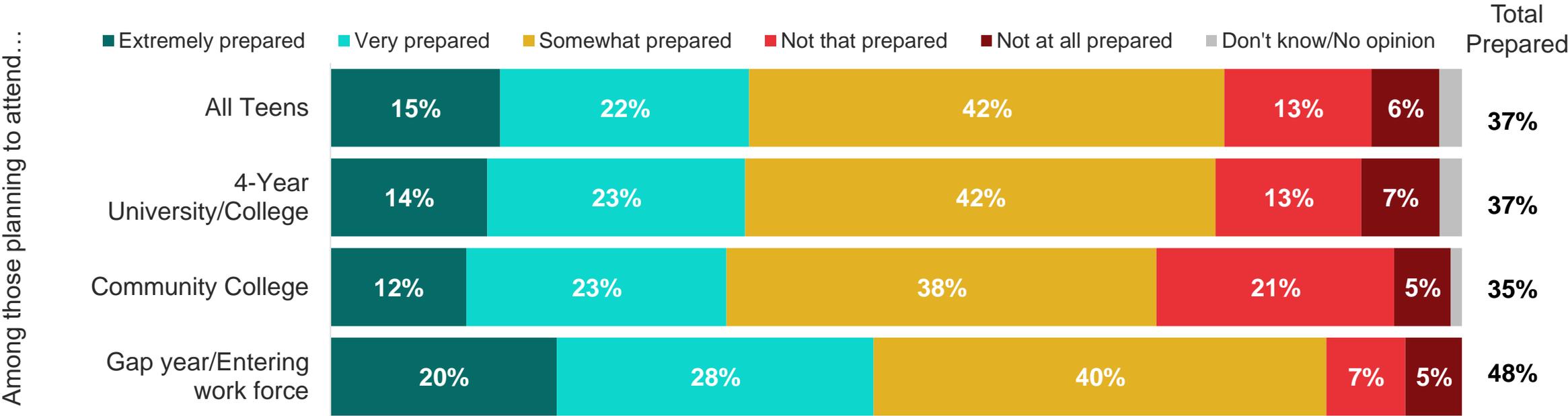
“I have a lot of issues going on in my life and I'm busy taking care of my mother.”

“Because of the pandemic. Money is tight on my family and there's a chance to go to community college for free.”

“New interests, realizations, and no motivation to work towards what I originally wanted to.”

High school parents are more likely to believe that their child is ready for life after high school than teens feel they are, especially those planning on attending college.

To what extent do you feel prepared for...?



How prepared do you believe your child is for life after high school?



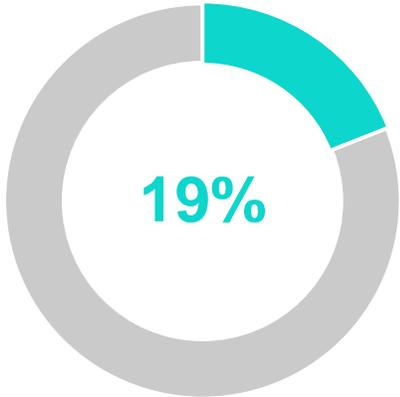
Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

Most high school parents report their child’s post-high school plans remain the same despite the pandemic. Those whose child’s plans have stayed the same are also more positive about their child’s current plans.

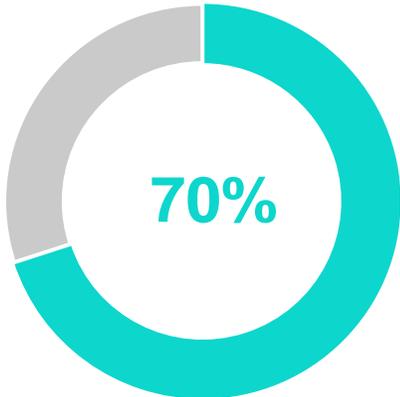
Have your child's post-high school plans changed as a result of the pandemic?

High School Parents

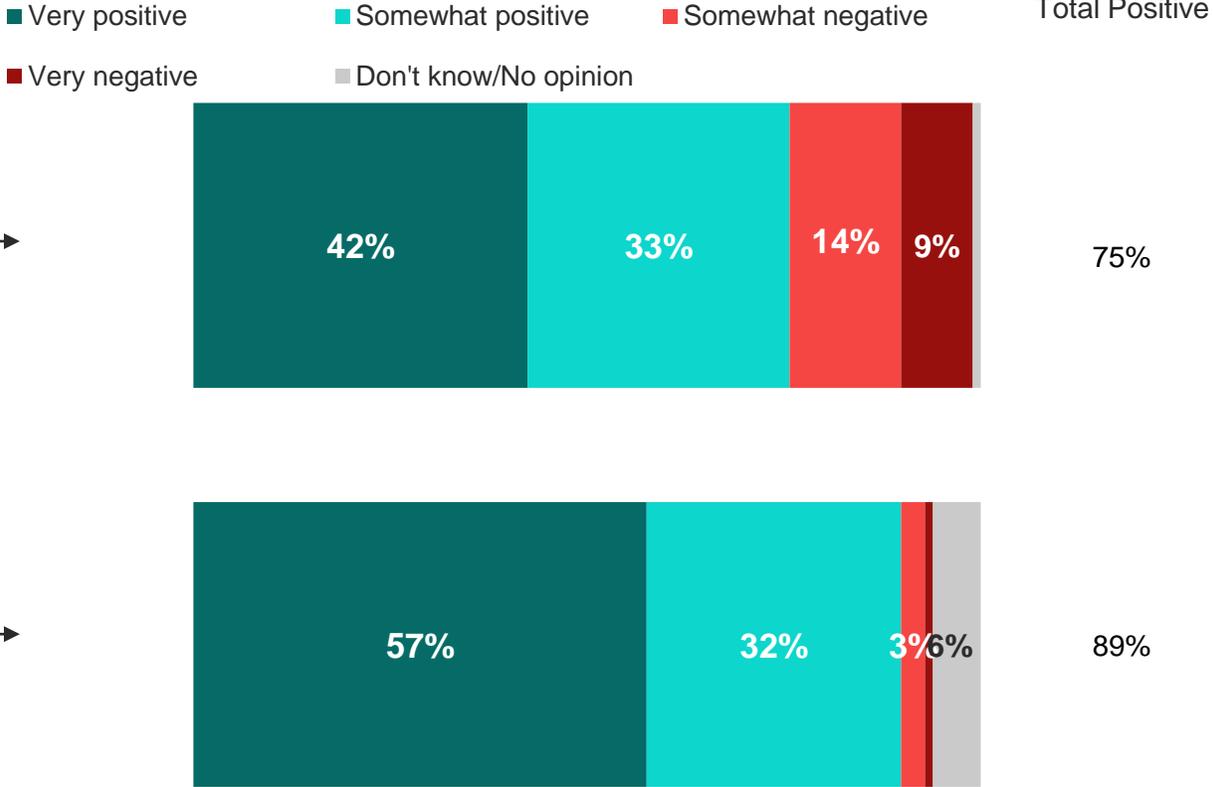
% Yes



% No



How do you feel about your child's current plans changing/staying the same as a result of/despite the pandemic?



Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

Parents report being positive about their child's post high-school plans because they seem to have trust in the planning and the child's drive to succeed in the face of adversity. Those parents who report negative sentiments believe their children lack motivation or otherwise have been negatively affected by the pandemic.

Why do you feel positive/negative about your child's post high-school plans?

High School Parents

POSITIVE

NEGATIVE

“He knows what he wants and is going after it.”

“My child has stayed on track to graduate and attend college under extremely difficult and stressful times.”

“She's become lazy and lost her drive to be successful.”

“He has no motivation or ambition, and school has not changed that.”

“The plan is very realistic and puts her towards a good future.”

“Because she's adapting, persevering and moving on with optimism and self motivation.”

“He is afraid to go to college now as a result of the pandemic.”

“I don't feel he is prepared for the real world at all.”

Three out of four high school parents believe a student's high school grades/GPA should be part of the college application process.

Many schools have various requirements that a student must submit as part of the college application process. In your opinion, do you believe the following should be part of the college application process?

High School Parents



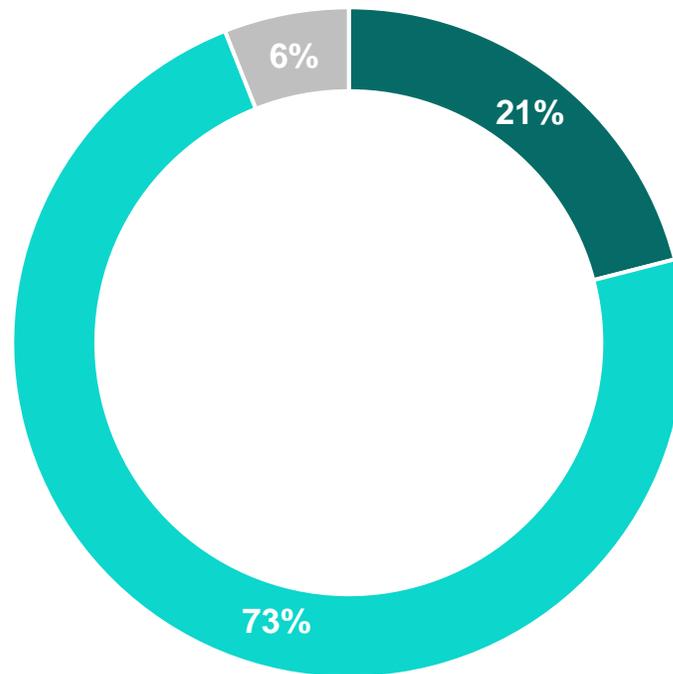
Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

About one out of five high school parents report changed views about their child attending college. This rate is notably higher among private school parents.

During the last two years of the pandemic, have your views changed about your child attending college?

High School Parents

- Yes, my views have changed
- No, my views have stayed the same
- Don't know/No opinion



% Yes, my views have changed by demographic

School Type	2021-22: Private School	46%
	2021-22 District School	19%
Income	Low Income < \$35K	14%
	Middle Income \$35K to < \$75K	23%
	High Income \$75K+	26%
Race	Black	23%
	Hispanic	30%
	White	18%
Community Type	Urban	29%
	Suburban	20%
	A Rural Area	18%
	Small Town	12%

Most high school parents believe it is at least somewhat important for their child to attend college – regardless of whether or not their views of college have changed.

How important do you feel it is for your child to attend college?

And how important do you feel it is for your child to attend college right after high school – instead of taking time off or going directly into the workforce?

■ Very important ■ Somewhat important ■ Not that important ■ Not at all important ■ Don't know/No opinion



Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

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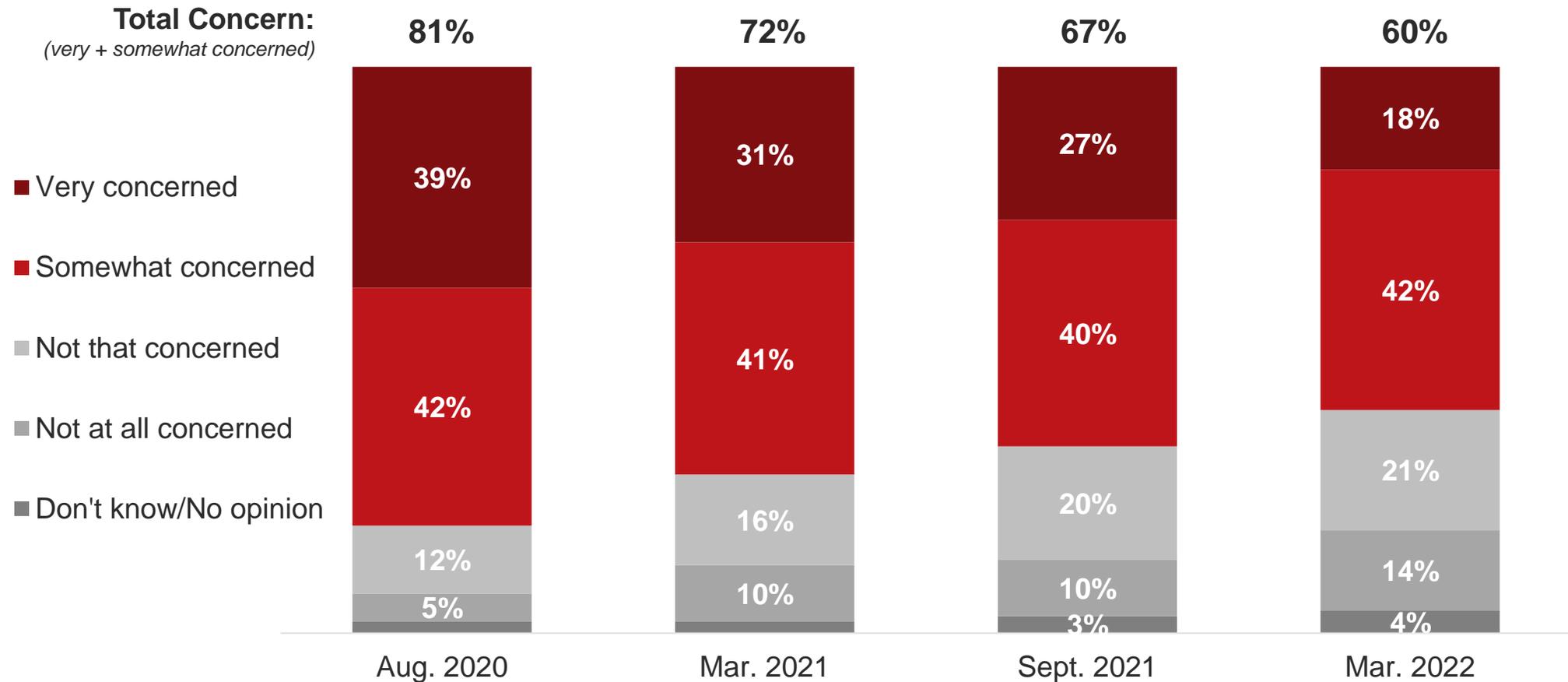
SURVEY PROFILE AND DEMOGRAPHICS



The majority of teens have remained at least somewhat concerned about the pandemic. But overall concern has decreased by 21 percentage points since August 2020. Nearly one out of five said very concerned.

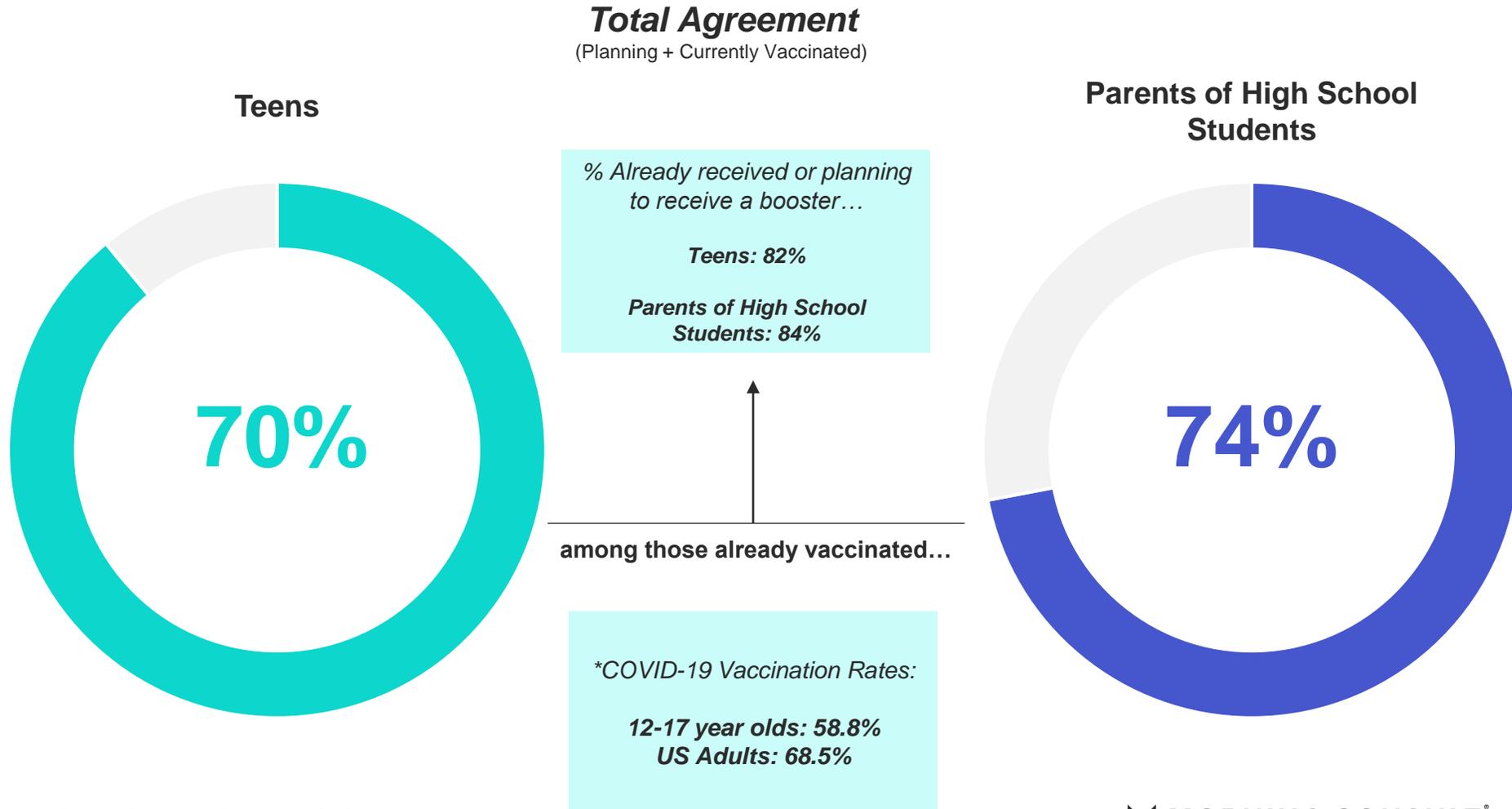
How concerned are you about the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic? Select one.

Teens



Majorities of teens and high school parents have already received or plan to get a COVID-19 vaccine. The majority of those who have been vaccinated either already have or plan to get their booster shot.

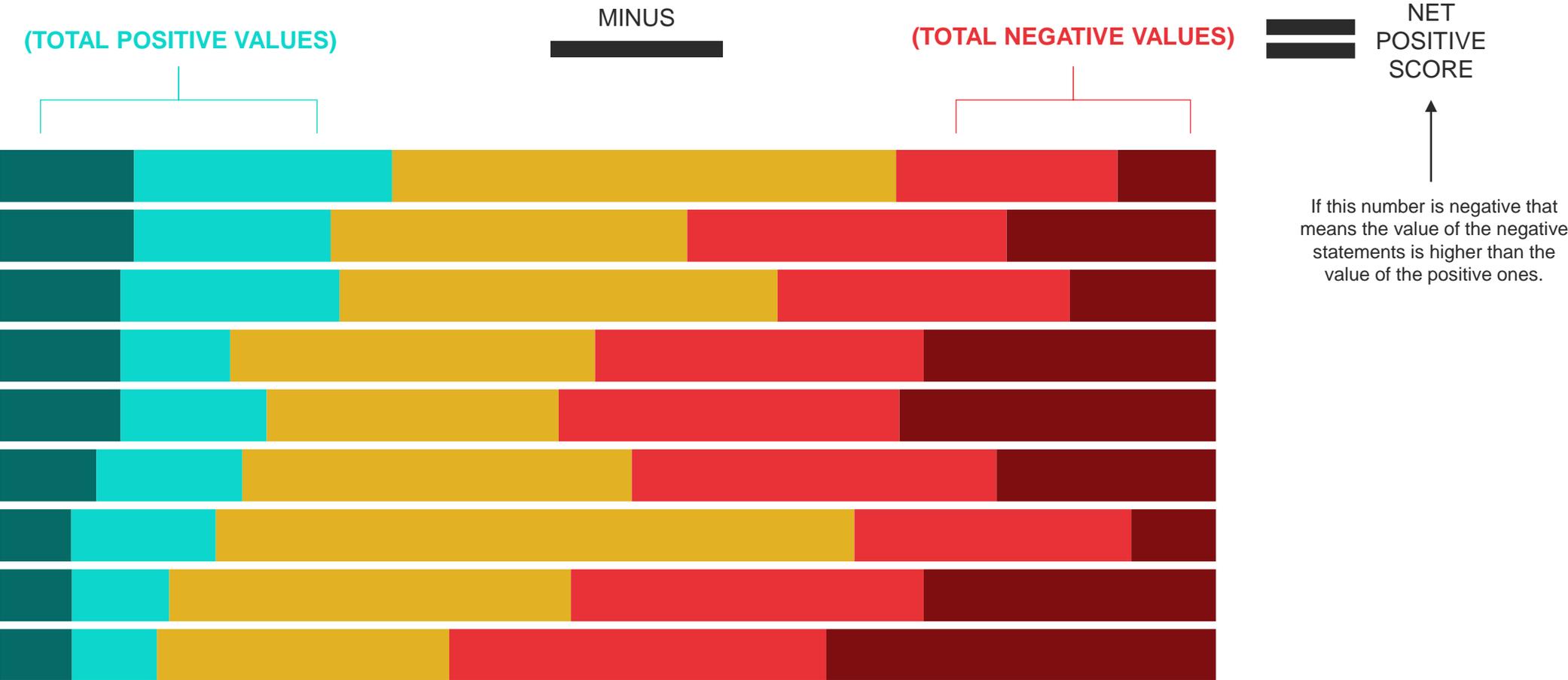
Have you gotten the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) vaccine? Did you get your COVID-19 booster shot?



*Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

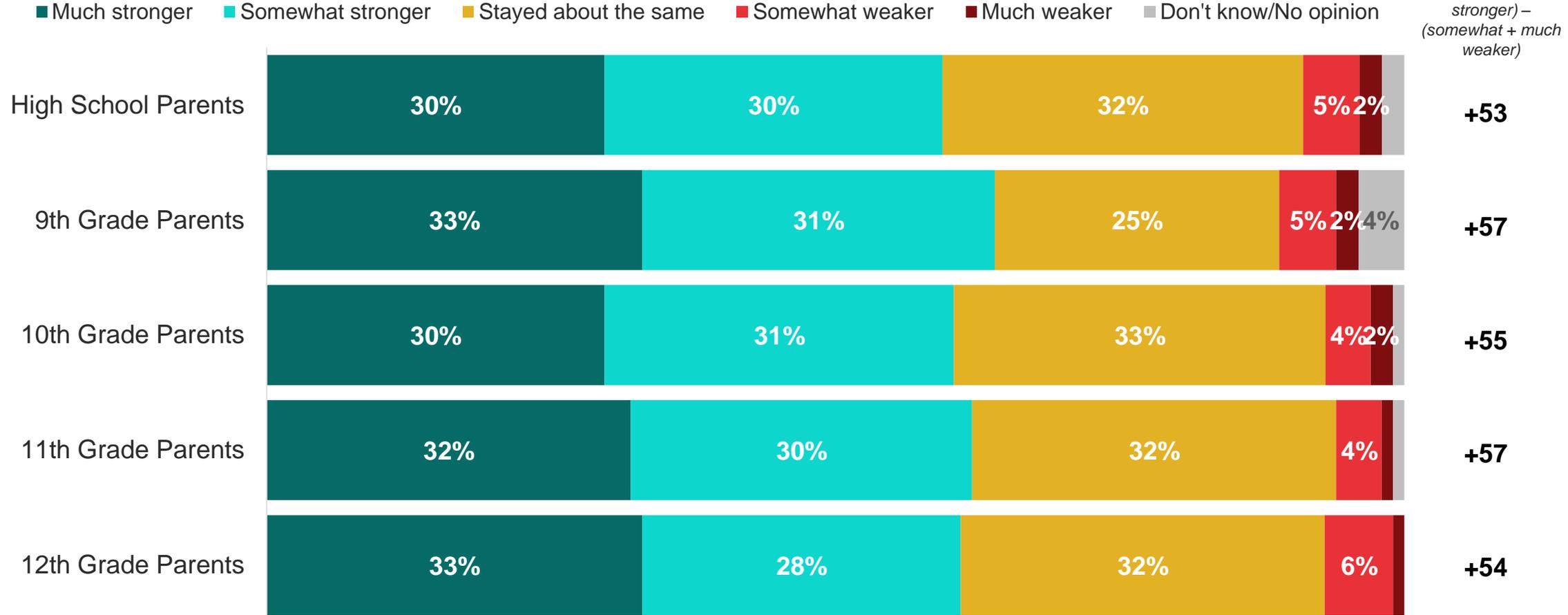
Sources: Survey conducted March 12-27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12-24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

HOW TO CALCULATE NET SCORES:



Parents of high school students believe relationships with their children have become stronger as a result of the pandemic. They are much more likely to indicate relationships have gotten stronger rather than weaker.

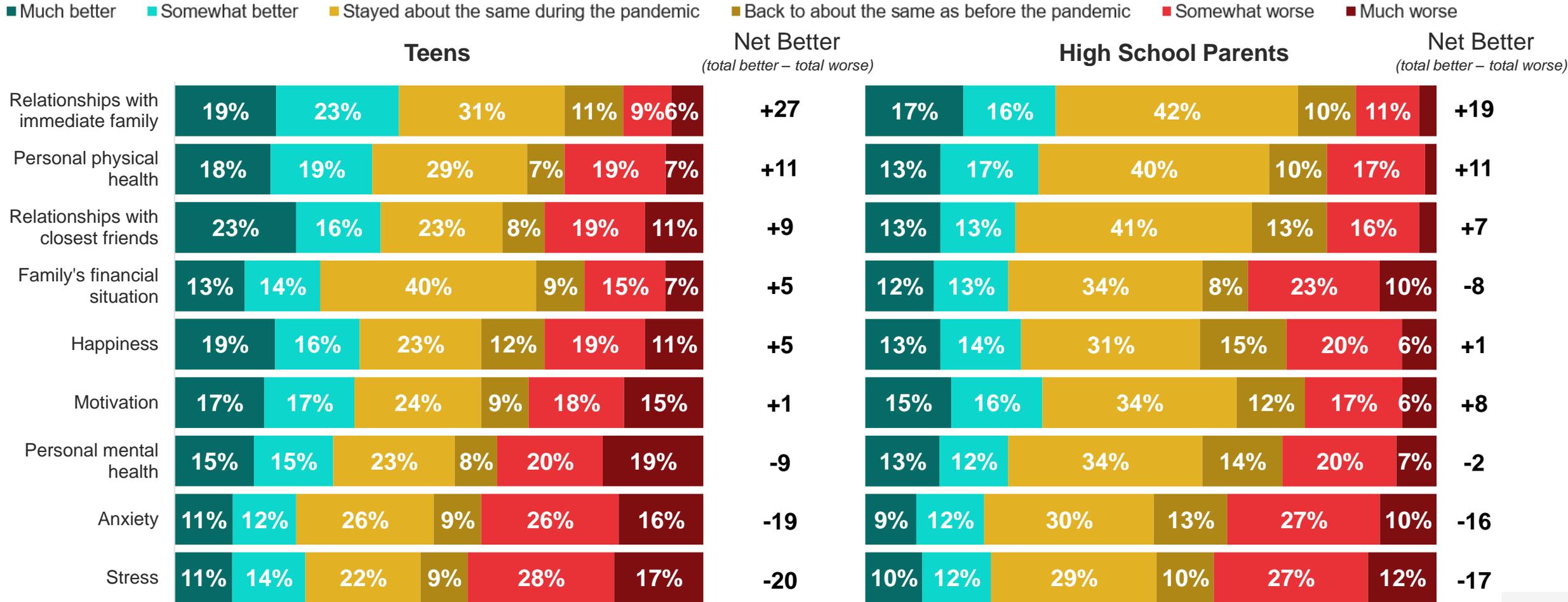
Do you believe your relationship with your child has become stronger, weaker, or stayed the same as a result of the pandemic?



Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

High school parents are more likely than teens to believe their wellness has stayed about the same during the pandemic.

Since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic started in March of 2020, how have each of the following changed for you? Select one per row.

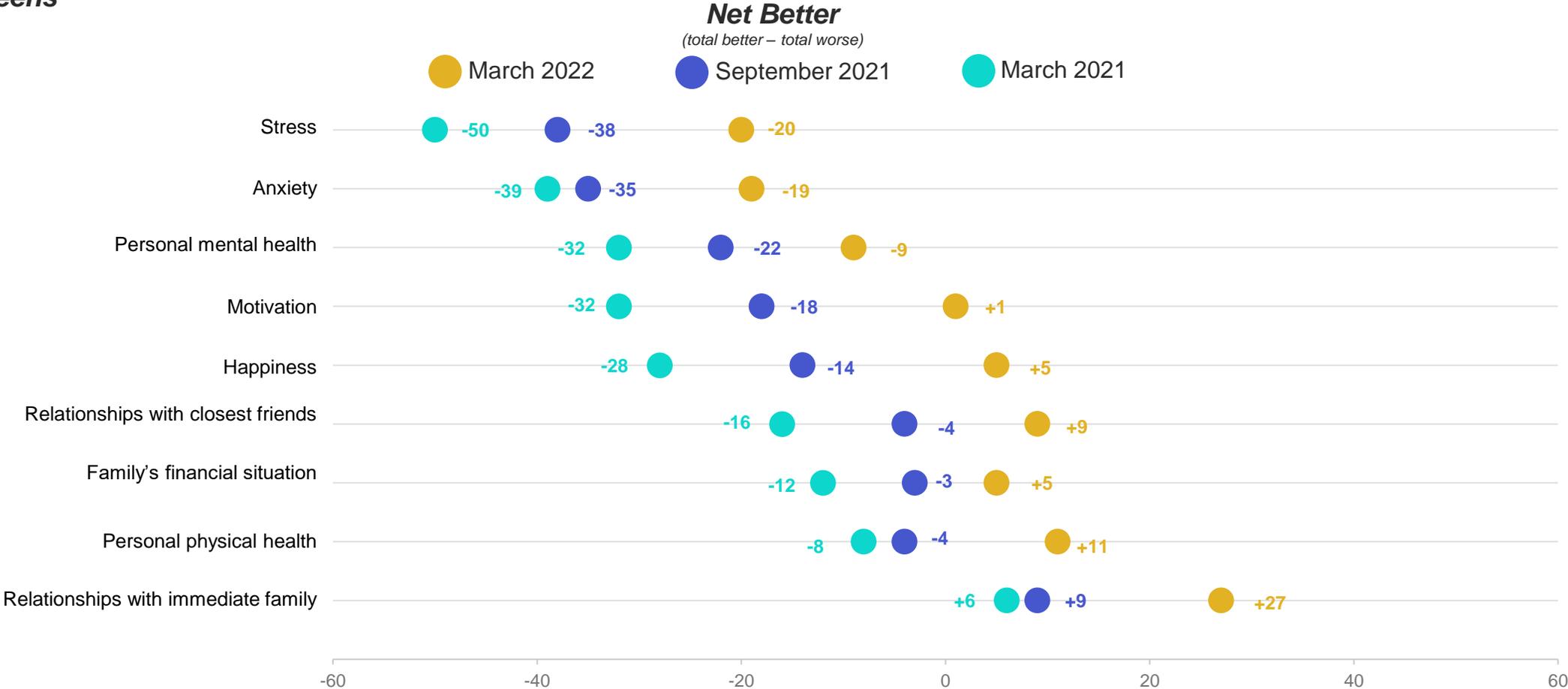


Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

In March 2022, teens were feeling much better about both their personal and their family's wellness when compared to earlier phases of the pandemic.

Since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic started in March of 2020, how have each of the following changed for you? Select one per row.

Teens

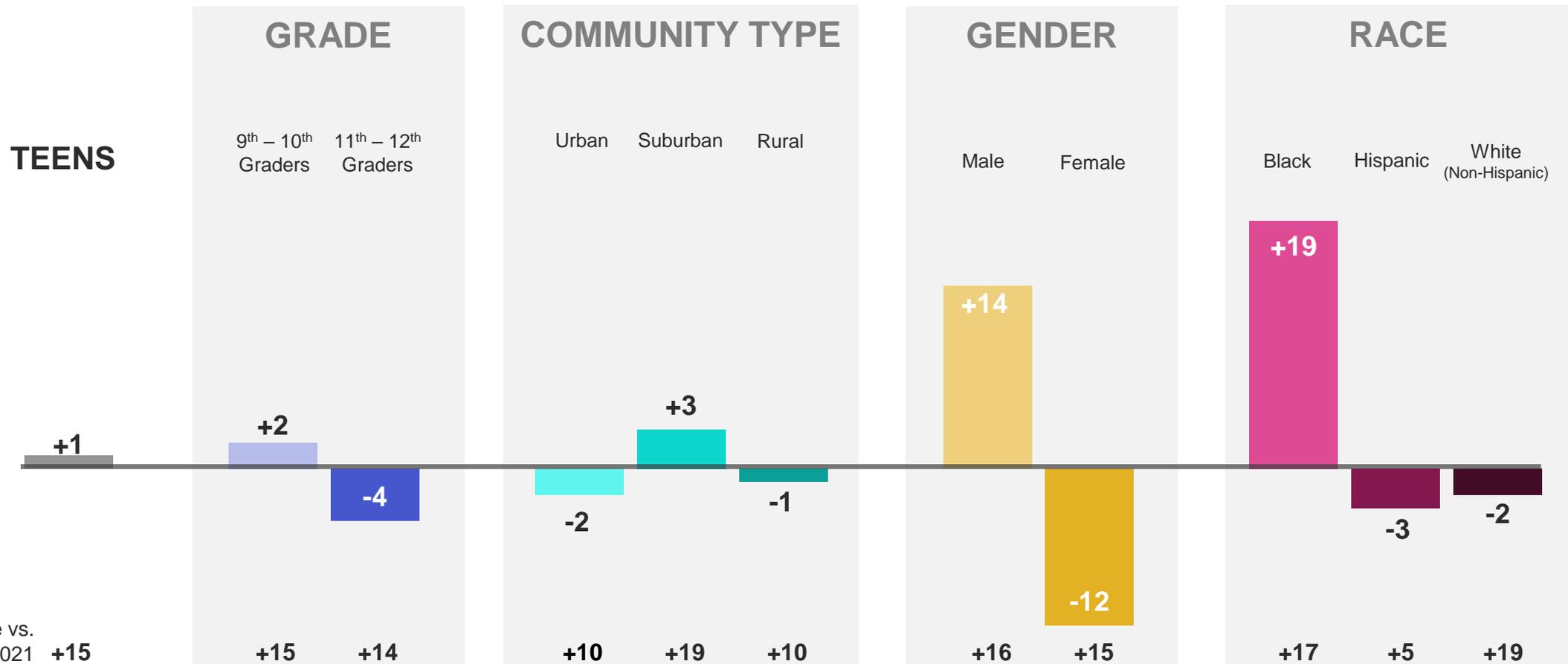


Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

Teens across the board have been feeling better about various wellness areas since September 2021 – especially Black and male students. However, female teenagers report being much worse off than males as a result of the pandemic.

Since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic started in March of 2020, how have each of the following changed for you? Select one per row.

AVERAGE NET BETTER SCORE BY DEMOGRAPHIC



Pt. Change vs. Sept. 2021 **+15**

Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

In March, high school parents who live in urban communities, are male, or are Black were most positive about how things have changed personally since the start of the pandemic.

Since the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic started in March of 2020, how have each of the following changed for you? Select one per row.

AVERAGE NET BETTER SCORE BY DEMOGRAPHIC



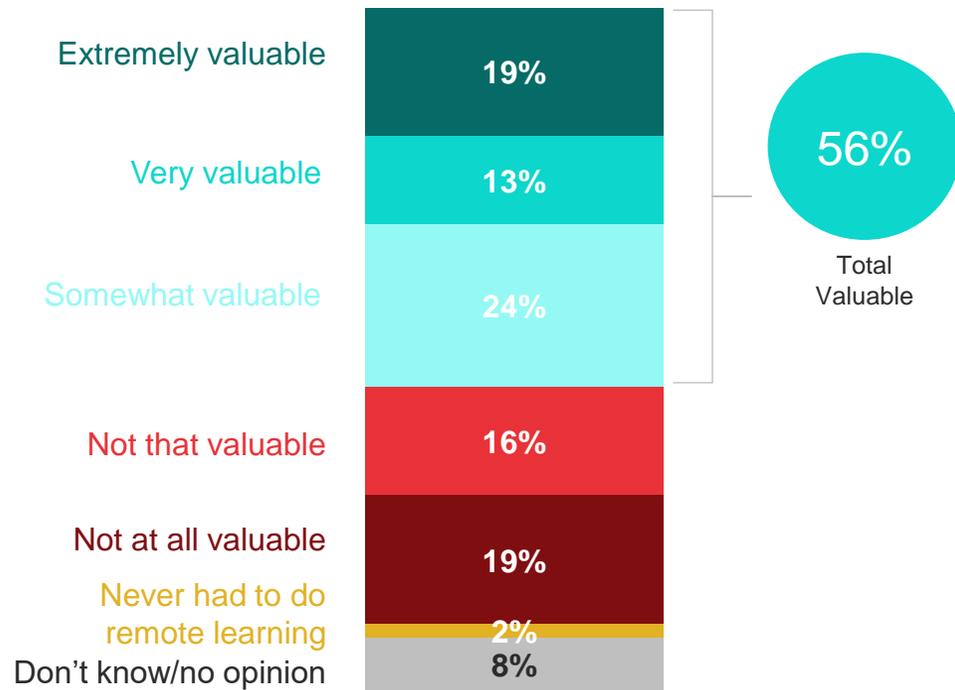
Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

Although more than half of teens viewed remote learning as at least somewhat valuable, seven out of 10 found quarantining a disruption to their learning.

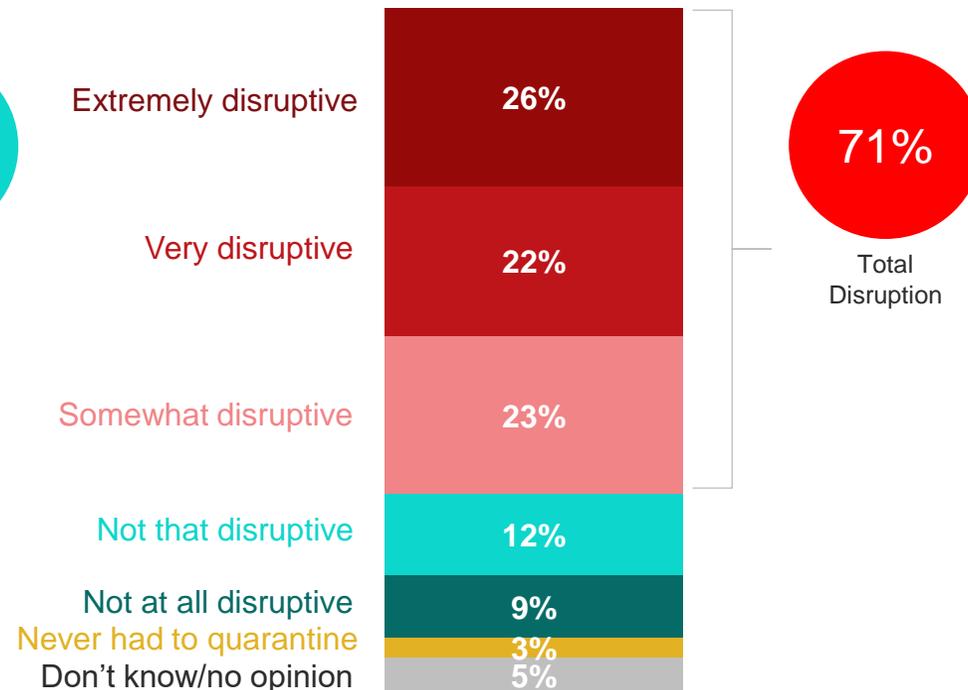
Thinking back on the last two years during the COVID-19 pandemic, how valuable was remote learning to your education?

Thinking back on the last two years during the pandemic, how disruptive has quarantining been to your education?

Remote Learning's value for Teens

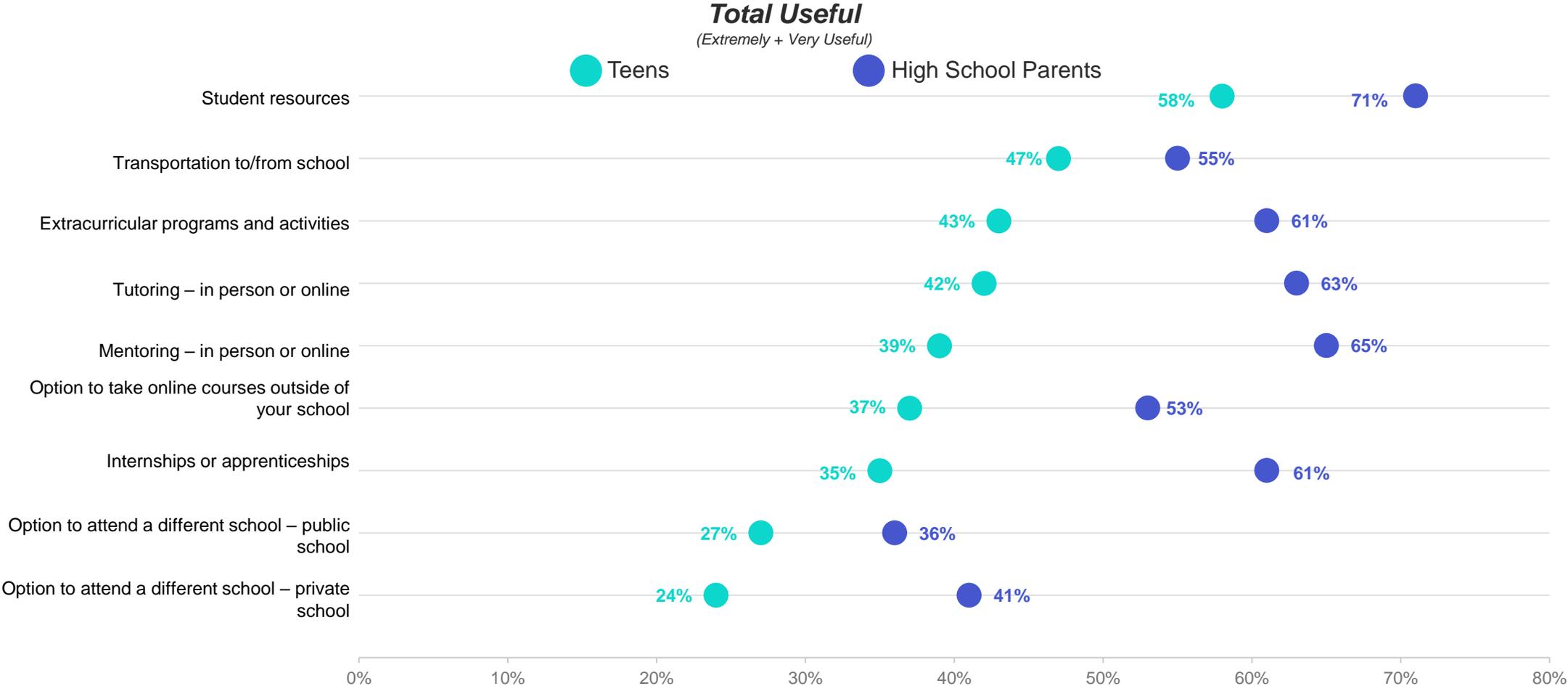


Quarantining's disruption on Teens



Parents of high school students are much more likely than teens to believe that a wide range of resources would have been useful during the pandemic.

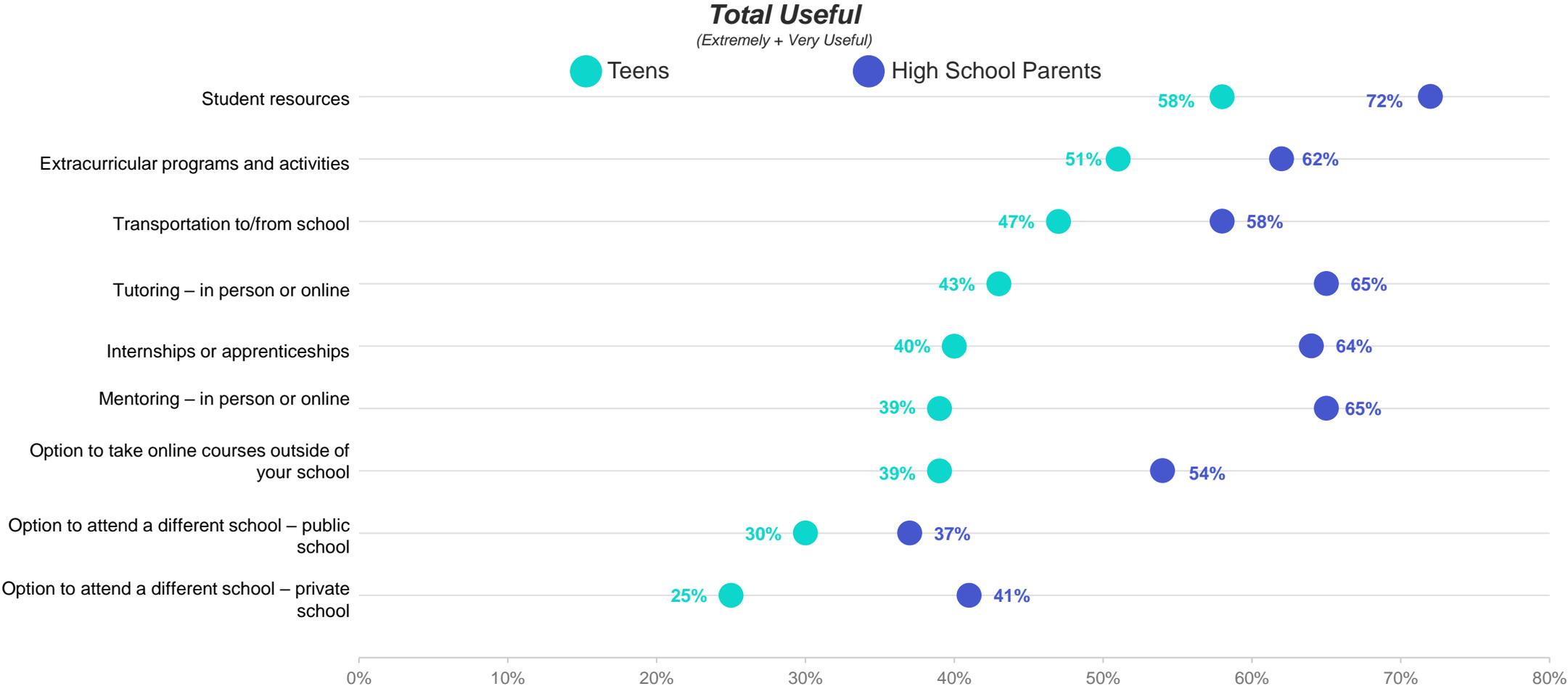
Thinking back on the last two years during the pandemic, how useful would each of the following have been to support you/your child's education?



Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

High school parents are also much more likely than teens to believe that a number of different resources would be useful right now.

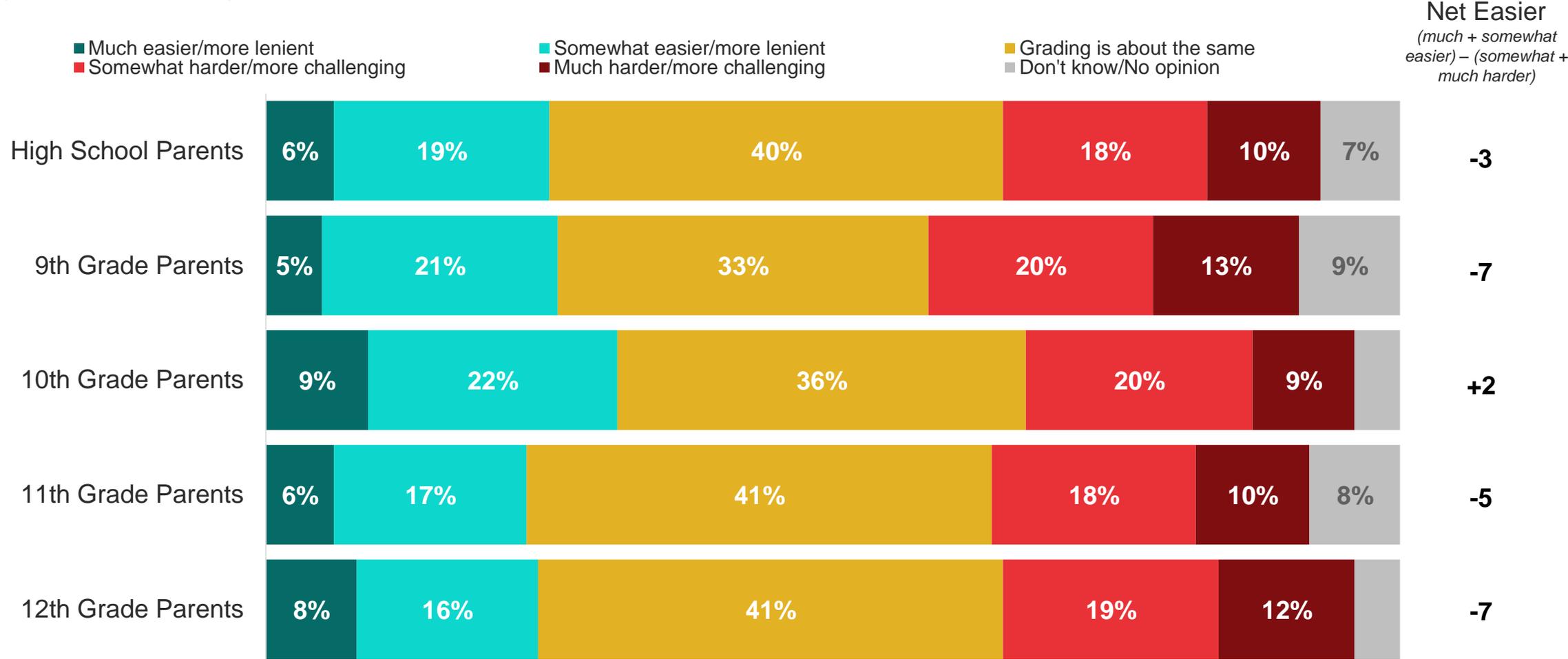
Right now, how useful would each of the following be to support your/your child's high school education?



Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

High school parents express mixed views about the grading at their child's school being easier, remaining the same, or being harder as a result of the pandemic.

As a result of the pandemic, do you believe grading at your child's school has become easier/more lenient or harder/more challenging (e.g. that grades given now are lower or higher than they would have been before the pandemic)?



Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

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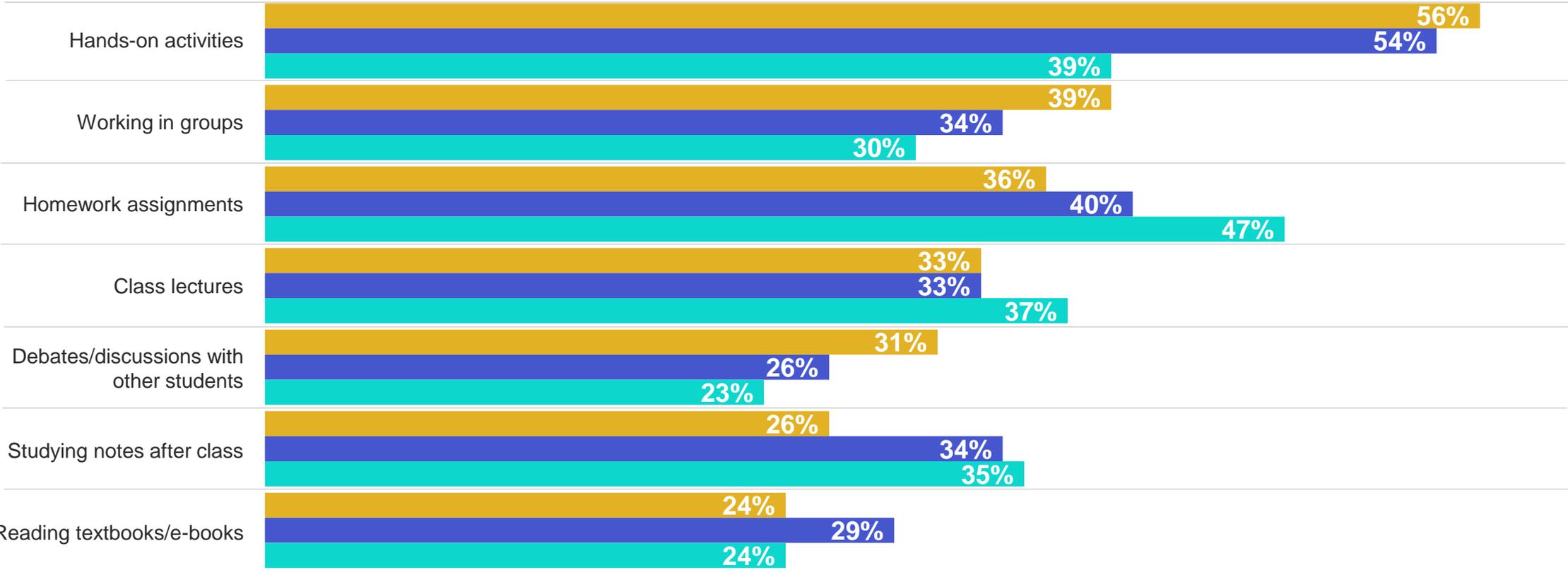


Since a year ago, teens have increasingly viewed hands-on activities as the best way they can learn in school.

Right now, how are you learning best in school? Select all that apply.

Teens

■ Mar. 2022
 ■ Sept. 2021
 ■ Mar. 2021

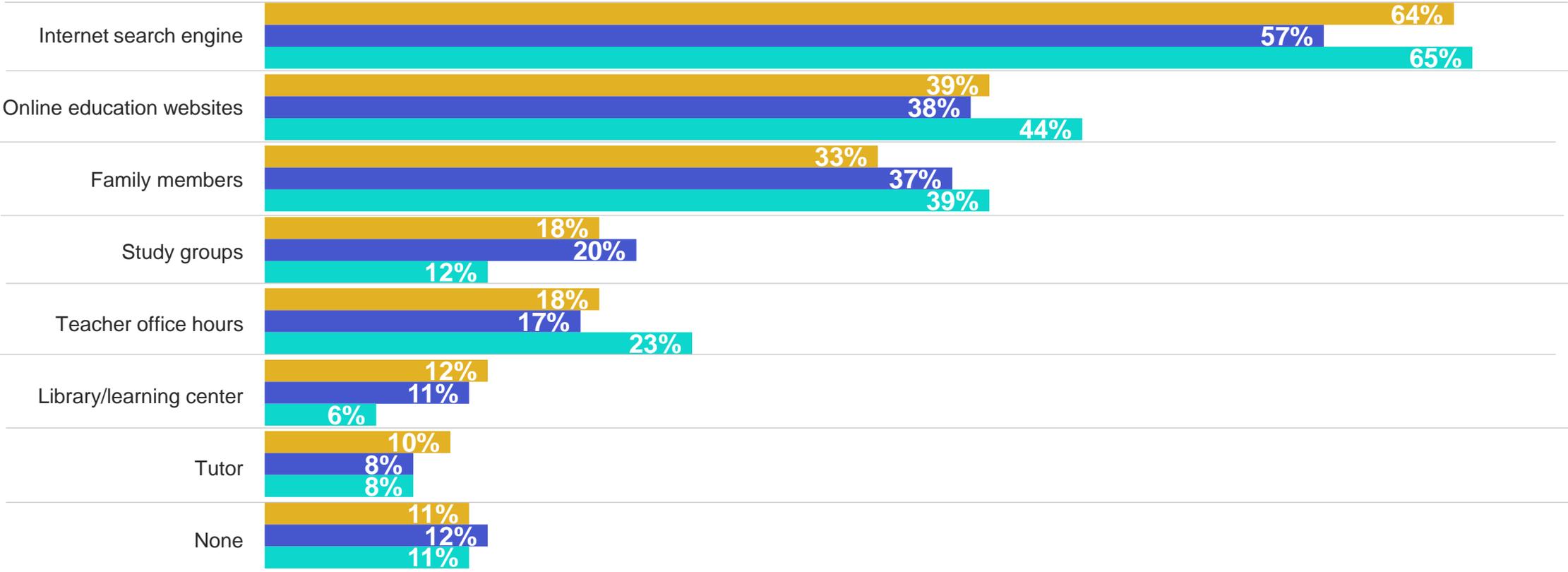


Teens continue to view internet search engines as the most beneficial tool to help them with their schoolwork.

Right now, which of the following do you currently use to help you with schoolwork? Select all that apply.

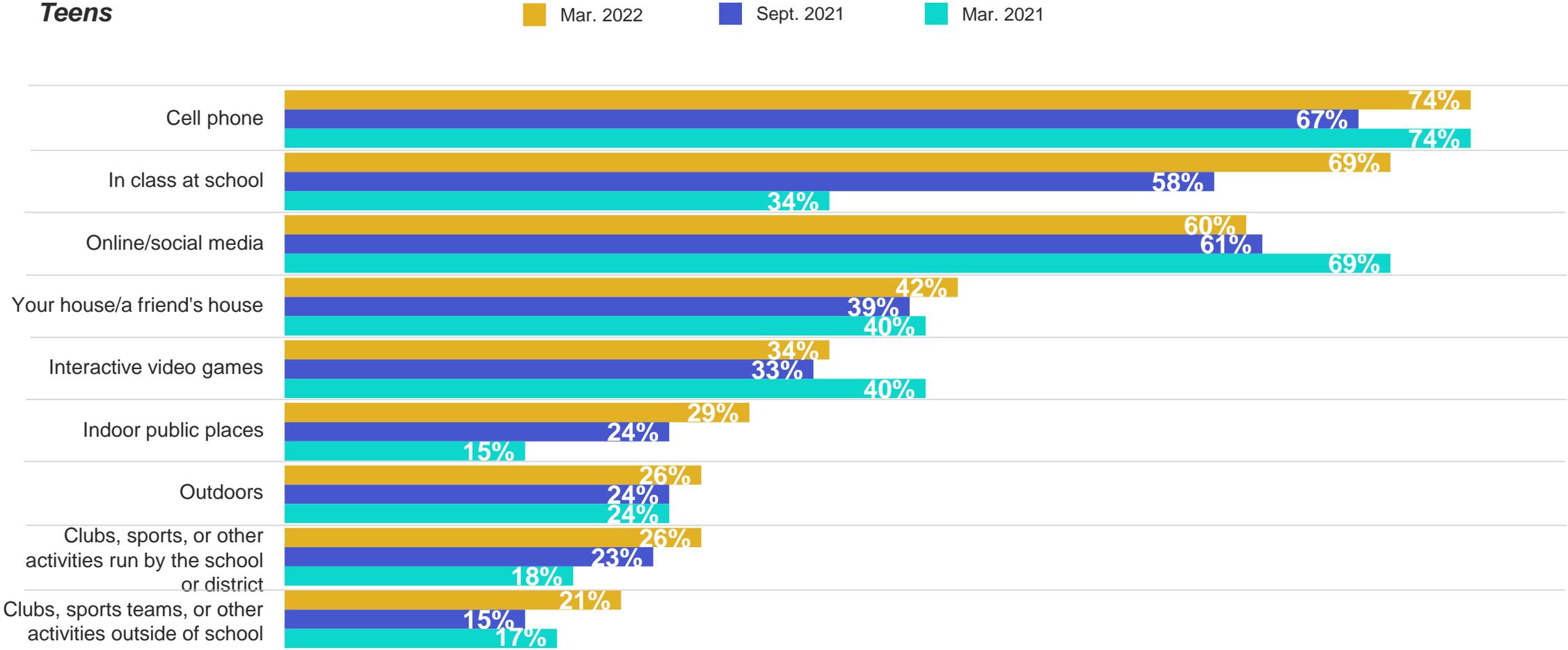
Teens

■ Mar. 2022
 ■ Sept. 2021
 ■ Mar. 2021



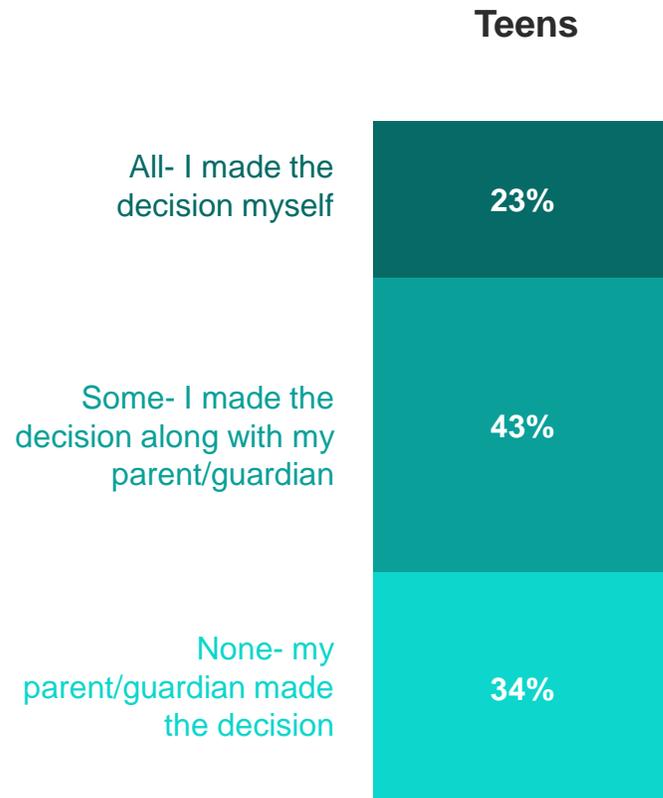
Teens remain heavily reliant on their phone and social media to connect with peers. Connecting in class at school has become more prevalent.

Right now, where do you connect with friends and other students? Select all that apply.

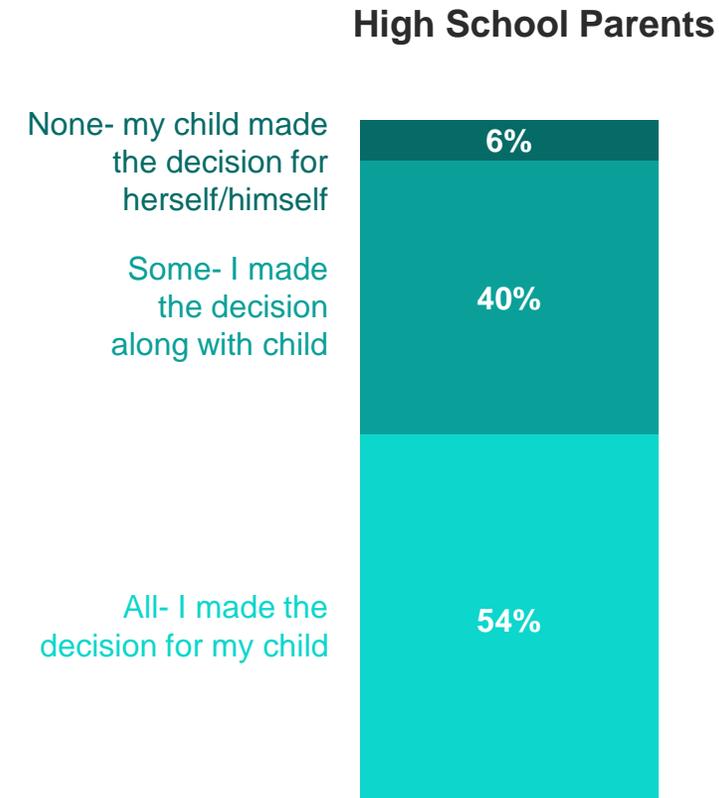


Teens report having more of a say in the type of school they are attending this current school year, differing from high school parents' responses.

How much of a say did you have in the type of school you are attending this current school year?



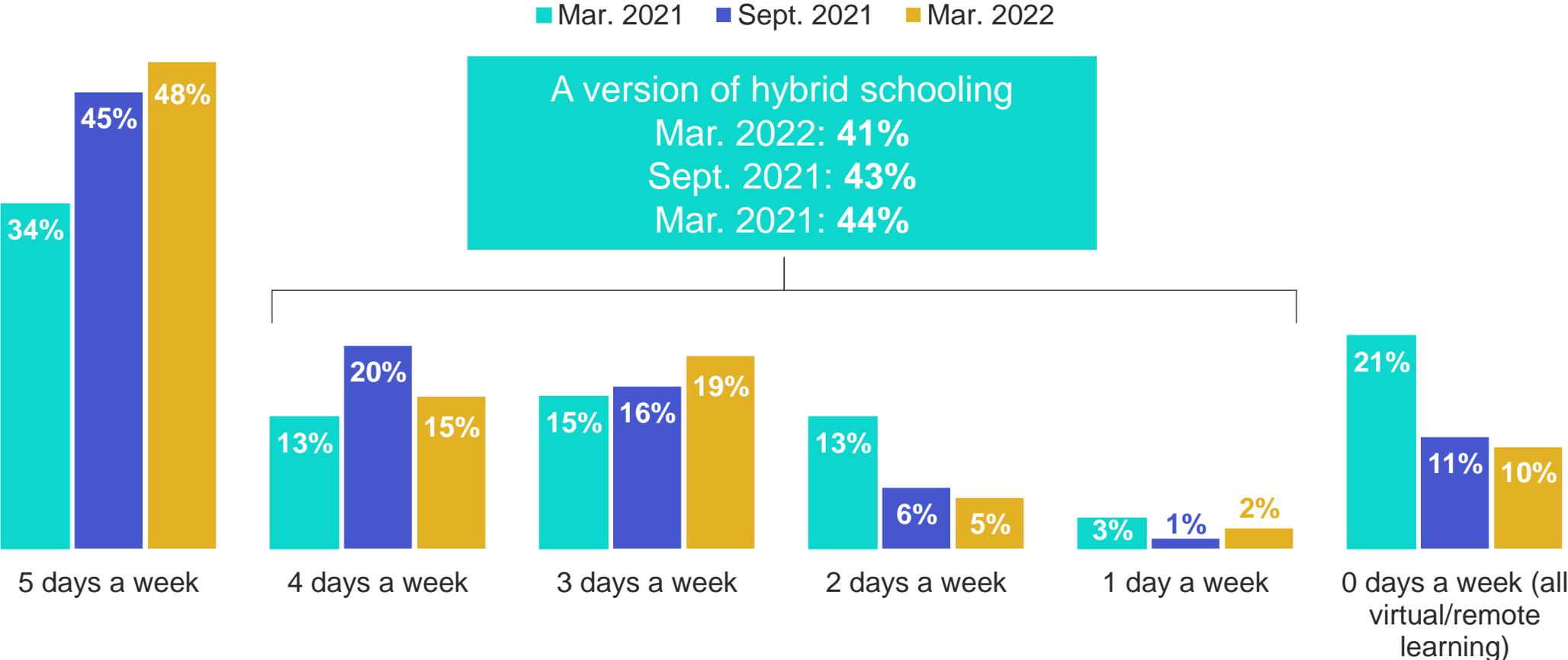
How much of a say did your oldest child have in the type of high school they are attending this current school year?



Teens are split on their preferences between full-time regular schooling and hybrid schooling. One out of 10 say they do not want to attend school in person – similar to the level observed in September 2021.

After the pandemic, if given the option, how many days per week would you like to attend classes in-person?

Teens



Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

Parents are more likely than teens to have higher expectations for high school learning.

In your opinion, how important is it for you to learn each of these at school?

What do you believe should be the main purpose of education during High School (9th through 12th grade)? In your opinion, how important is it for students to learn...

% Extremely Important

Teens

Average % selected Extremely Important **48%**

-  Skills for future employment (62%)
-  Become independent thinkers (56%)
-  How to be good citizens (49%)
-  Values, moral character, religious virtues (48%)
-  Socialization (46%)
-  To fix social problems (41%)
-  Core academic subjects (37%)

High School Parents

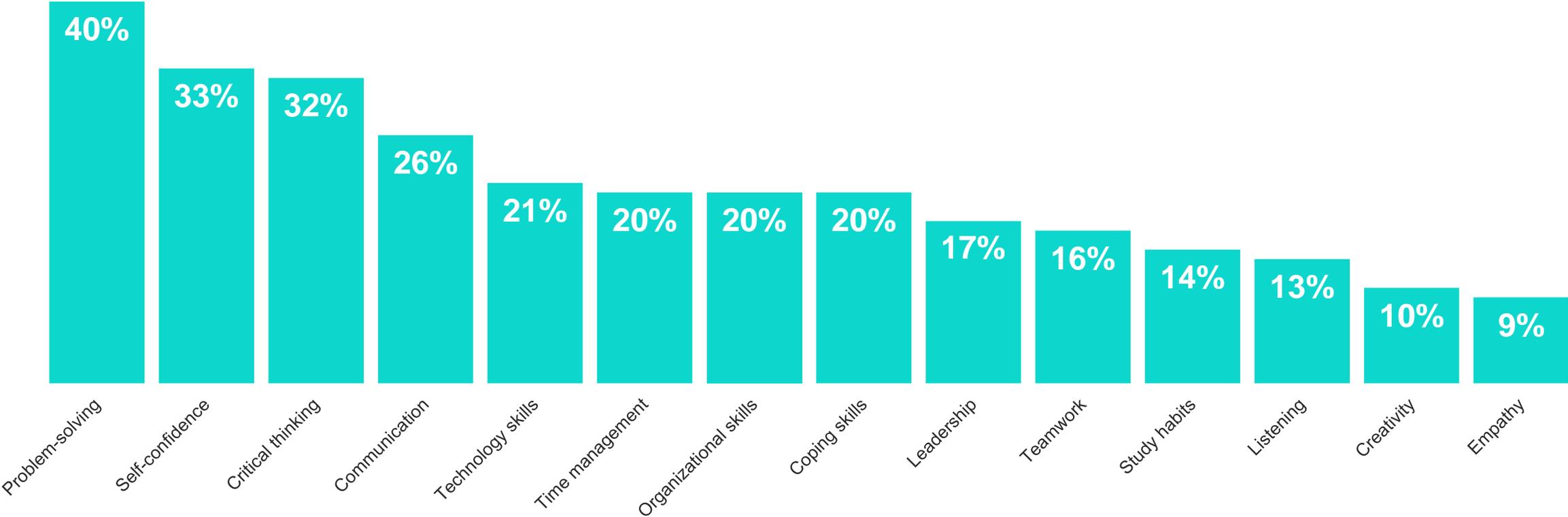
Average % selected Extremely Important **55%**

-  Skills for future employment (62%)
-  Core academic subjects (61%)
-  Become independent thinkers (61%)
-  Values, moral character, religious virtues (57%)
-  How to be good citizens (55%)
-  Socialization (54%)
-  To fix social problems (32%)

High school parents are most likely to say problem-solving, self-confidence, and critical thinking are the top skills for their child to learn before graduation.

What skills do you view as most important for your child to learn before graduating high school? Please select up to 3.

High School Parents

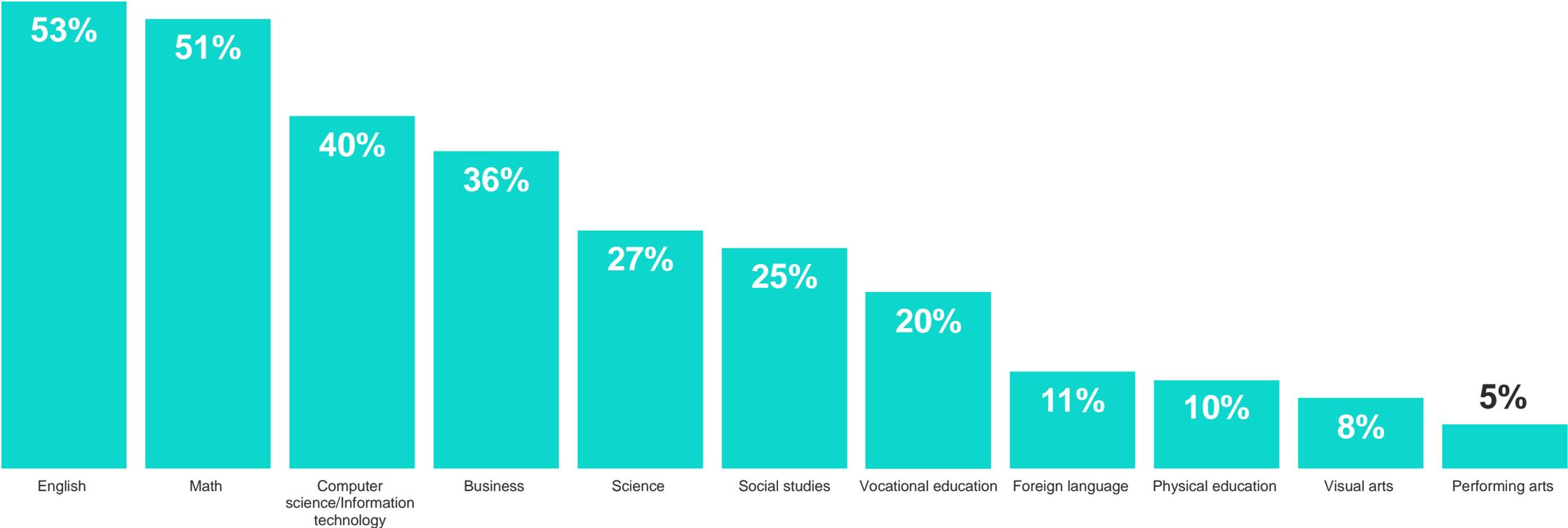


Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

High school parents are most likely to say English, Math, and Computer Science are the top subject areas for their child to learn before graduation.

What subject areas do you view as most important for your child to learn before graduating high school? Please select up to 3.

High School Parents



Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

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High school parents are more likely than teens to agree their child's school promotes equality, fairness, respect, challenge, or provides communication supports.

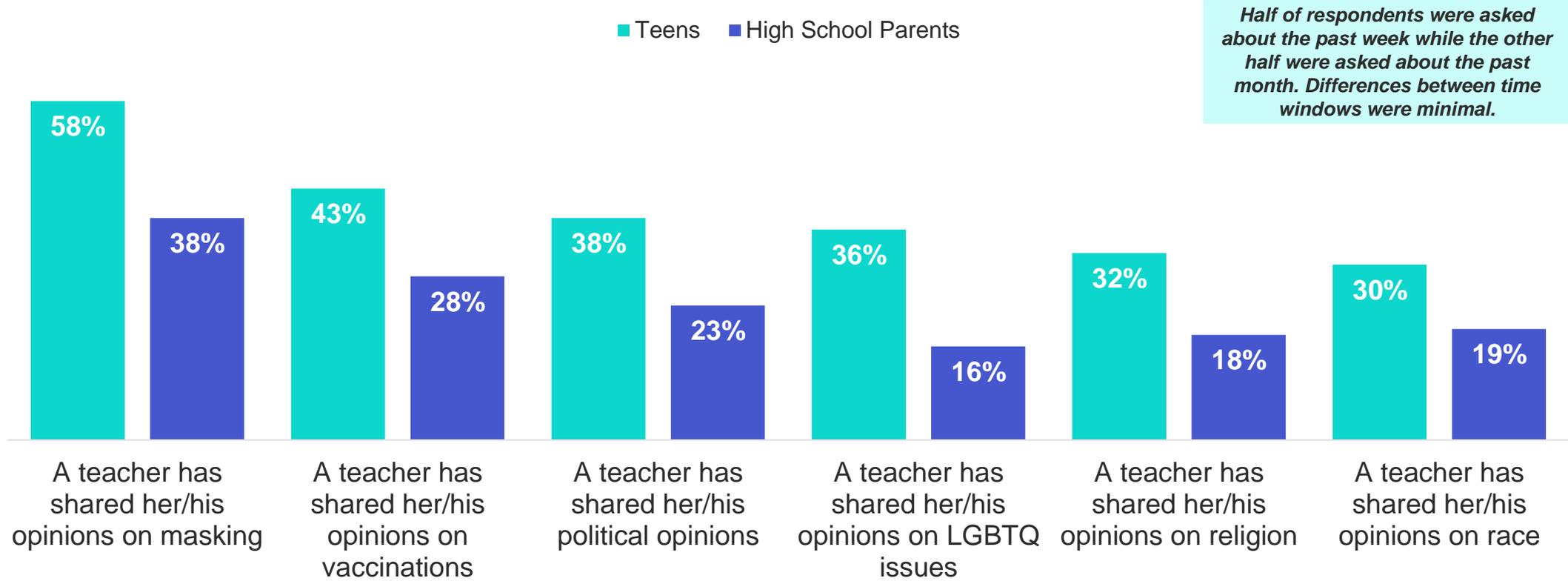
How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements as it relates to the school you attend/high school your child attends?

% Total Agreement

	Teens	High School Parents
Treats all students equally regardless of their race or background	73%	82%
Emphasizes showing respect for all students' cultural beliefs and practices	72%	82%
Encourages all students to take challenging classes regardless of race or background	71%	78%
Provides good support for students who need alternative modes of communication	70%	82%

Teens are more likely than parents to observe a teacher recently sharing opinions on different social/political issues.

Of the following, which have you observed or experienced in school in the past week?... In the past month?
 Of the following, which have you observed or experienced relating to your child's high school?... In the past month?

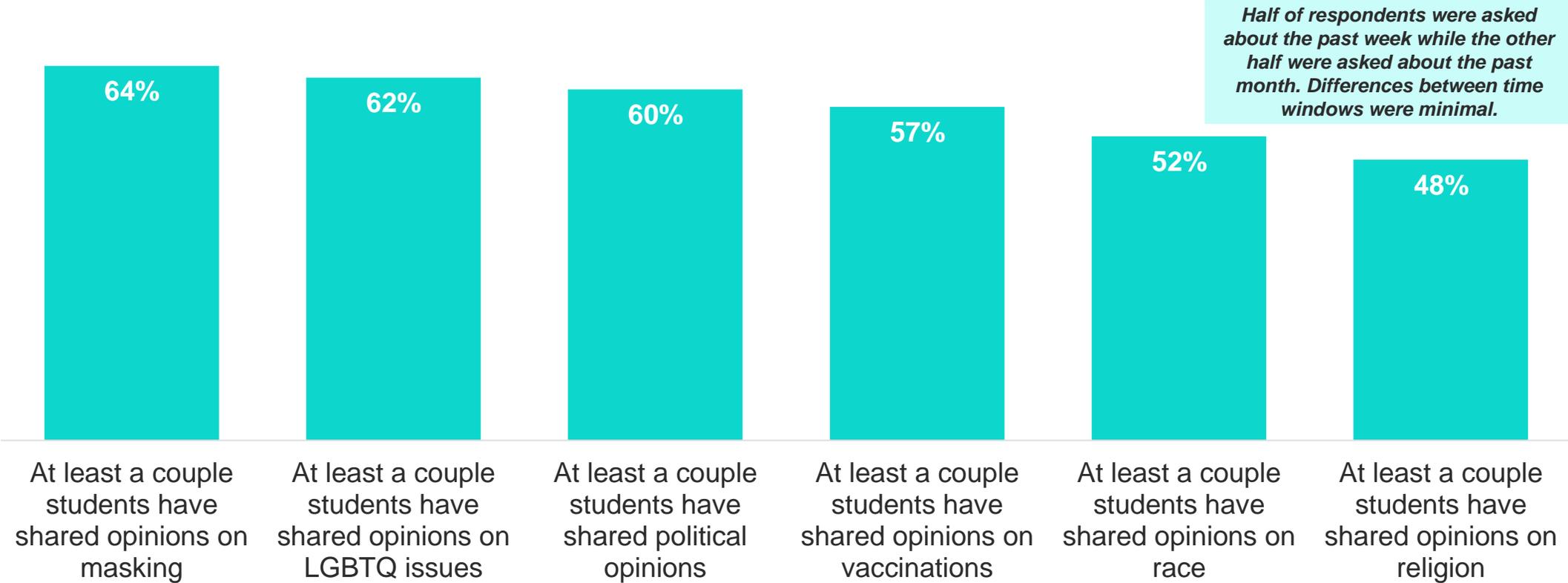


Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents
Note: Results are a composite numbers between those who have observed or experienced something in the past week and those who have in the past month.

Roughly half or more of teens say classmates have recently shared opinions on masking, LGBTQ issues, politics, vaccines, race, or religion.

Of the following, which have you observed or experienced in school in the past week?... In the past month?

Teens

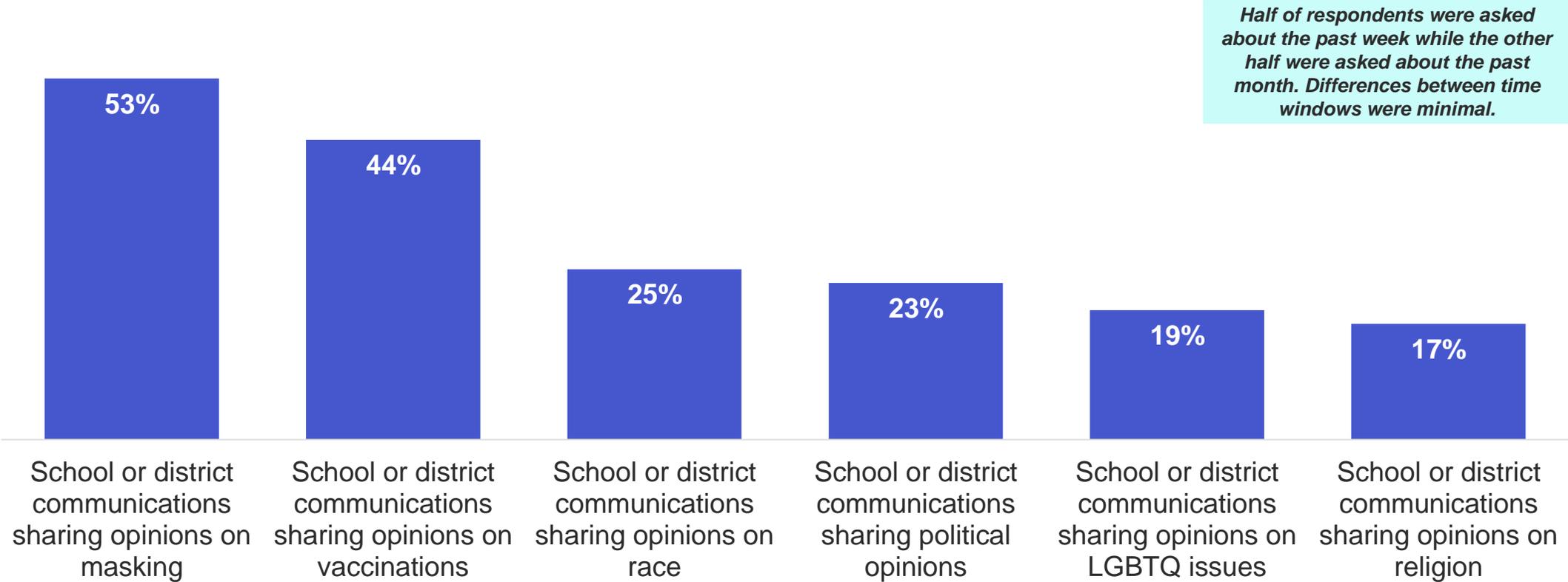


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Note: Results are a composite numbers between those who have observed or experienced something in the past week and those who have in the past month.

High school parents are much more likely to have received recent district or school communications about masking and vaccinations, compared to topics of race, politics, LGBTQ issues, or religion.

Of the following, which have you observed or experienced relating to your child's high school in the past week?... In the past month?

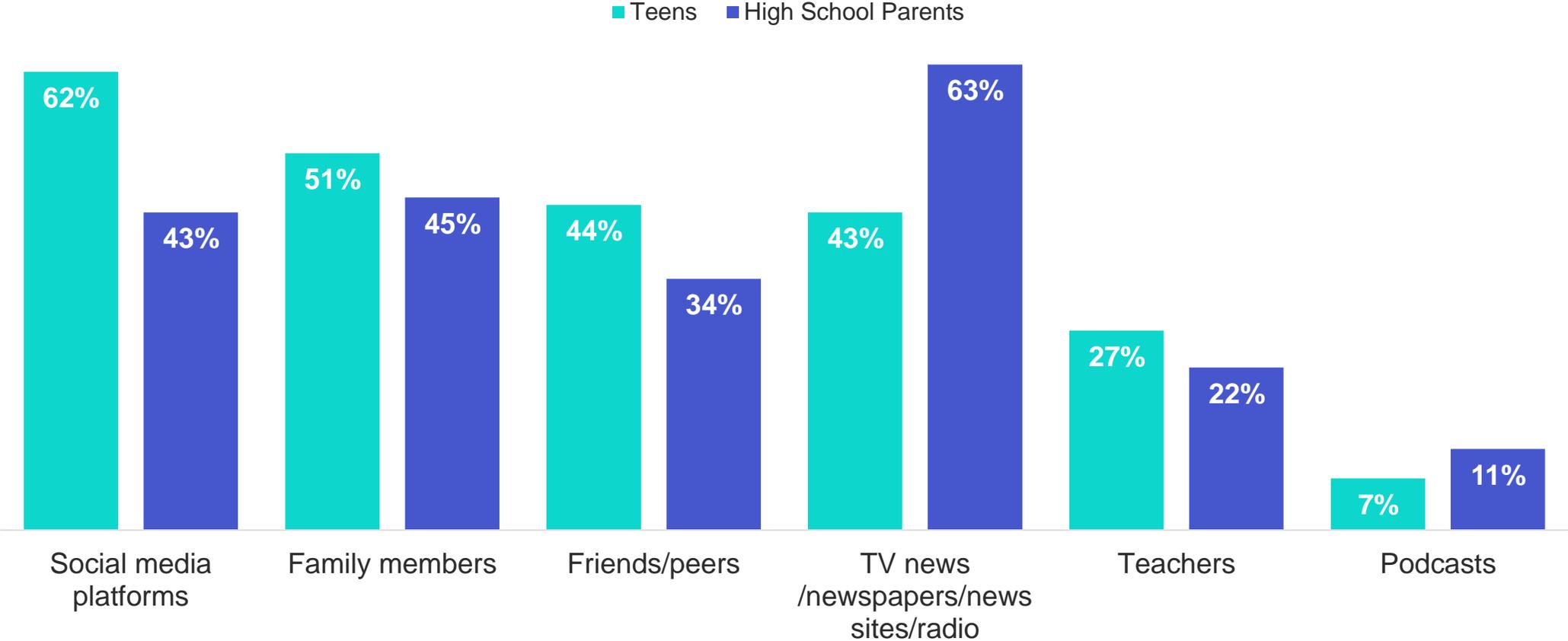
High School Parents



Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents
Note: Results are a composite numbers between those who have observed or experienced something in the past week and those who have in the past month.

Teens are more likely to rely on social media to get information about current events, while high school parents are more likely to rely on traditional news sources.

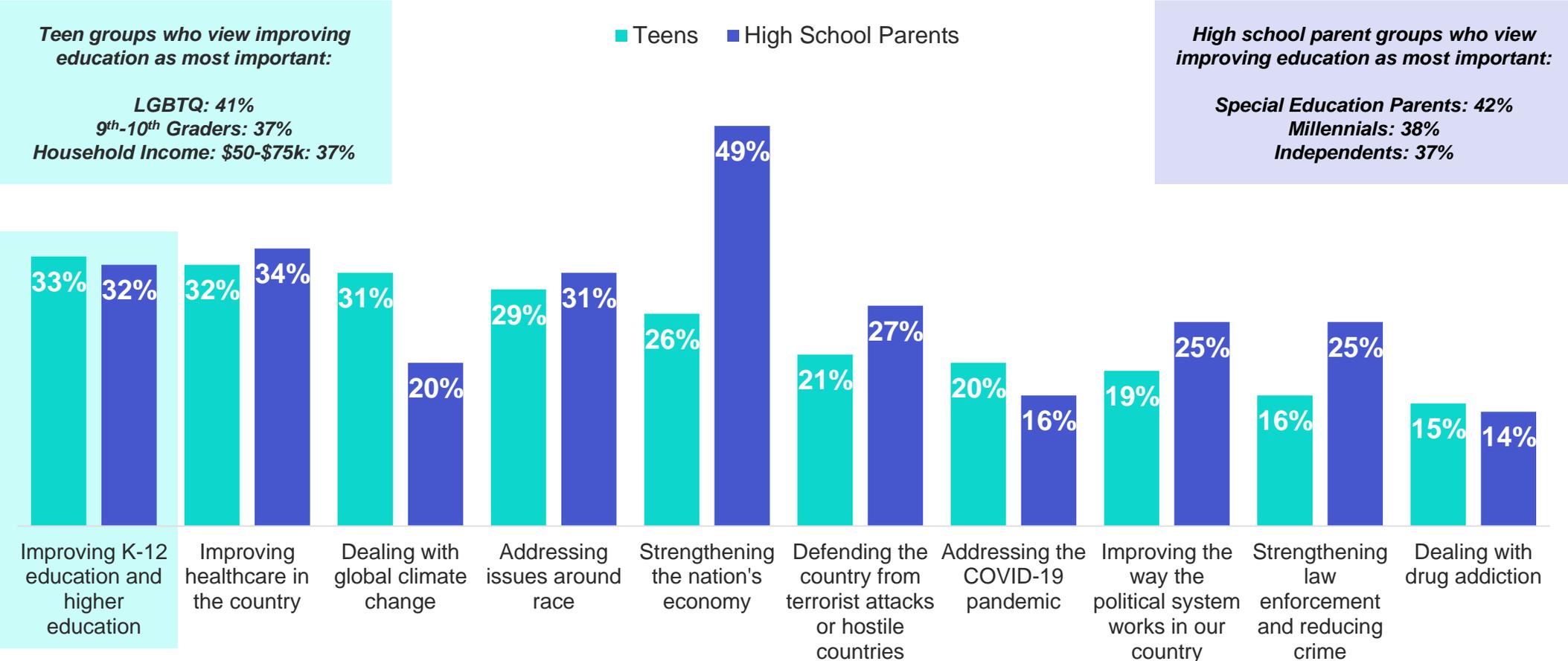
What sources do you primarily get your information about current events from?



Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

Teens view improving education as one of the most important public policy issues right now. A similar share of high school parents signal the same. However, strengthening the economy is clearly highest priority for parents.

Right now, which of these public policy issues are most important to you? Please select three.



Sources: Survey conducted March 12–27, 2022, among U.S. Teens (ages 13-18) Survey conducted March 12–24, 2022, among U.S. High School Parents

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Survey Profile, 1

Dates

Teens: March 12–27, 2022
High School Parents: March 12–24, 2022

Survey Data Collection & Quality Control

Morning Consult

Survey Sponsor

EdChoice

Populations

Teens (ages 13-18)

***NOTE survey done in March 2021 did not include 18-year-olds*

Parents of at least one high school student

Sampling Frame

National sample of teens (age 13-18) and high school parents living in the United States, including the District of Columbia

Sampling Method

Non-Probability

Mode

Online Survey

Language

English

Survey Profile, 2

Survey Time

Teens = 10.99 minutes (median)
High School Parents = 14.04 minutes (median)

Sample Size

Teens Total, N = 1,000
High School Parents Total, N = 1,030

Quotas

N/A

Weighting

Age, Race, Ethnicity, Gender, Census Region

Measure of Precision (adjusted for weighting)

Teens = ± 4.49 percentage points
High School Parents = ± 4.28 percentage points

Participation Rate

Teens = 28.75%
High School Parents = 16.34%

Methods Page

<https://edchoice.morningconsultintelligence.com/methodology/>

Project Contact

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Teen Demographic Groups with Unweighted Sample Sizes

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
Male	449
Female	551
6-8th Graders	81
9th-10th Graders	221
11th-12th Graders	545
Urban	259
Suburban	483
Rural	258

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
White (non-hispanic)	456
Hispanic	233
Black	220
Asian	85
Northeast	160
Midwest	211
South	431
West	198

Teen Demographic Groups by Unweighted, Weighted, and Target Percentages

Demographics	Unweighted	Weighted	Target
Age: 13	5%	17%	17%
Age: 14	5%	17%	17%
Age: 15	5%	16%	16%
Age: 16	23%	16%	16%
Age: 17	24%	16%	16%
Age: 18	37%	18%	18%
Male	45%	51%	51%
Female	55%	49%	49%
White	46%	52%	52%
Hispanic	23%	24%	24%
Black	22%	14%	14%
Other	9%	10%	10%
Northeast	16%	16%	16%
Midwest	21%	21%	21%
South	43%	39%	39%
West	20%	24%	24%

High School Parent Demographic Groups with Unweighted Sample Sizes

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
Hispanic	122
Non-Hispanic White	765
Black	89
Other	56
Millennial	593
Generation X	292
Boomers	143
Male	412
Female	618
< College	540
College +	490
Northeast	231
Midwest	243
South	373
West	183

Demographics	Unweighted (N =)
9 th Grade Parents	423
10 th Grade Parents	327
11 th Grade Parents	288
12 th Grade Parents	264
Liberal	325
Moderate	294
Conservative	348
Democrat	442
Independent	222
Republican	314
Urban	381
Suburban	382
Small Town	98
Rural	169
Low Income <\$35K	226
Middle Income \$35K to <\$75K	350
High Income \$75K+	454

* Denotes the sample came from school parents

High School Parent Demographic Groups by Unweighted, Weighted, and Target Percentages

Demographics	Unweighted	Weighted	Target
Age: 25-34	19%	12%	12%
Age: 35-54	70%	71%	71%
Age: 55+	12%	16%	16%
Age: 65+	3%	4%	4%
< College	52%	65%	65%
College +	48%	35%	35%
White	74%	58%	58%
Hispanic	12%	24%	24%
Black	9%	12%	12%
Other	5%	7%	7%

WHO WE ARE

 **MORNING CONSULT**[®]

Morning Consult is a global data intelligence company delivering insights on what people think in real time.

By surveying tens of thousands across the globe every day, Morning Consult is unmatched in scale and speed: It determines the true measure of what people think and how their decisions impact business, politics and the economy.

Industry leaders rely on Morning Consult's proprietary technology and analysis for real-time intelligence to transform information into a competitive advantage.

 **CHOICE**

EdChoice is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Our mission is to advance educational freedom and choice for all as a pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. We are committed to understanding and pursuing a K–12 education system that empowers every family to choose the schooling environment that fits their children's needs best.

Learn more at: [EDCHOICE.ORG](https://edchoice.org)





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